



A Complicated Christmas | THE SOUND OF CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:1-7

As many of you know...I love hallmark movies. →Hallmark is great because its complicated...in a very VERY predictable way. →TWEET: "I fell asleep..." →TWEET: Every Hallmark PLOT →Luke 2:1-7

→Summary: Let's face it, Christmas can be...complicated. *Marjorie Holmes* famously stated, "At Christmas, all roads lead home." But do we want to go home? "Home" is complicated. The "idea" of going home for Christmas can amplify our feelings of disconnectedness, family conflict, & emotional isolation. And yet, each of us have a deep desire to belong, to be loved, and for our hearts to be settled at home. Maybe this Christmas, our definition of "home" needs to change. We need a definition that transcends the complications. We need Christmas to be...SIMPLE.

→Where is home for YOU this Christmas?

Luke 2:1-7: 2 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. 2 (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. 4 And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. 5 He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. 7 She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

Home is where we're from... →Everyone was born somewhere...where were you born?

- Joseph's hometown/"ancestral town" was Bethlehem. - v. 3 →MAP →Spokane

→TRANSITION: But what if WE don't feel like you are from anywhere...or your hometown doesn't feel like home?

Home is where we have family... →We are deeply connected to place...were more connected to people...

- Joseph was from the line of Judah...his tribe was his identity. He was a descendant of King David and his family was from from King David's ancient home. - v. 4 →Florida...MY FAMILY WAS THERE. →WA, OH, IN, MO, TX, FL

→TRANSITION: But what if WE don't have people...or we don't like our family...or our family is spread out all over...?

Home is where we feel loved... →Nothing communicates love like WELCOME/KNOWN. →cinnamon rolls →"Known"

- "The Plot Thickens" →Dogs →"there was no lodging for them." - v. 7 →"katalyma" / house →Cave →GREEK: κατάλυμα
- VISION: Lovelift - Grab a bag, fill it, & leave it at our Christmas tree...& well lovelift some people up this Christmas.
- VISION: Christmas Concert / Christmas Eve Service - INVITE. INVITE. INVITE.
- VISION: Christmas Eve Service - Serve!! We create hospitality TOGETHER!! →YOU are hospitality.

→TRANSITION: But what if WE don't feel welcome...or known...or loved?

Home is where Jesus is BORN! →"Ill be HOME for Christmas...if only in my dreams." →132/16 mil = 12% →417,000 died

- Where is home? →2 Cor. 5:8 →Phil. 1:23 →Home HERE vs. Heaven THERE = HOME w/Christ! →Go home/Jesus!
- Open the door. →Rev. 3:20 →If Jesus has been born in your heart...than YOU ARE HOME!
- VISION: Water Baptism - Jesus has been born in James heart! →Prayer: Lord, lead us to YOUR way.

→TRANSITION: If Jesus is in your heart...YOUR HOME.

→Our home is with Jesus. Merry Christmas!!

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Where/what is home for me? Where I am from? Where do I have family?
2. What makes Christmas complicated for me? What are the tensions I wrestle with at this time of year?
3. Is the church a home where people feel loved, welcomed, and known? Why or why not?
4. How does changing the definition of home to where Christ dwells a more transcendent definition of home?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help me experience the simplicity of being with you this Christmas season and help me help others experiences that, too."

QUOTES / SONGS:

"I'll Be Home For Christmas"

by **Kim Gannon** and **Walter Kent** & closely connected to singer, **Bing Crosby**

*I'm dreaming tonight of a place I love
Even more than I usually do
And although I know it's a long road back
I promise you*

*I'll be home for Christmas
You can count on me
Please have snow and mistletoe
And presents under the tree*

*Christmas Eve will find me
Where the love light gleams
I'll be home for Christmas
If only in my dreams*

*I'll be home for Christmas (I'll be home for Christmas)
You can count on me (you can count on me)
Please have snow (have snow) and mistletoe (yeah)
And presents under the tree (under the tree)*

*Christmas Eve will find me
Where the love light gleams
I'll be home for Christmas
If only in my dreams
If only in my dreams*

*In my dreams, my dreams
My dreams*

"Christmas is a time when you get homesick - even when you're home." - **Carol Nelson**

"At Christmas, all roads lead home." - **Marjorie Holmes**

"Holmes' husband Lynn Mighell rose eventually to become a top executive with the Carrier Corporation. He died of cancer in 1979 after years of illness. During the period of her grieving, Holmes wrote the book *To Help You Through the Hurting*. In 1981, when she was 70, Holmes met physician George Schmieler. Both had lost their mates after nearly 50 years of marriage. Schmieler, grieving the loss of his wife six months earlier, had discovered a book his wife had been reading, *I've Got to Talk to Somebody, God* by Marjorie Holmes. Six weeks later he traced Holmes through relatives, called her unlisted phone number and announced, "I love you. You saved my life." She agreed to meet him and, nineteen weeks after they met, Holmes and Schmieler were married. They moved to Pittsburgh, where they lived until his death in 1992. Holmes dedicated books to him, including *Three From Galilee*. She also wrote the book *Second Wife, Second Life* specifically about him. Holmes returned to the area of Washington D.C. to live after his death." - **Wikipedia**

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- **Song History:** "I'll Be Home For Christmas" <https://historydaily.org/ill-be-home-for-christmas-song-lyrics-facts-stories-trivia/4>
- **Academic Paper:** "The Accommodations of Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem: Κατάλυμα in Luke 2.7*" <http://www.hypotyposeis.org/papers/Carlson%202010%20NTS.pdf>

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Philippians 1:23 *I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. 24 But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.*

2 Corinthians 5:8 *Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.*

Revelation 3:20 *"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. 21 Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.*

MESA CHRISTMAS LINKS:



- Youtube SHAREABLE Christmas Invite: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcTiNu66cTQ&t=33s>
- Christmas Season Details? Click: <https://mesa.church/christmas>

MESA VISION LINKS:

- Who is Mesa? Click: [ID.Mission.Vision](#)
- What is the vision of Mesa Church? Click: [Vision Sermons / Messages](#)
- Is there anything I can watch to be inspired? Click: [Grow Conference Main Sessions](#)

NEXTS STEPS:

- [Fill Out an Online Connect Card](#)
- [Join a Small Group](#)
- [Get Water Baptized](#)
- [Become a Partner of Mesa Church](#)
- [Join a Dream Team to Serve on Sundays](#)
- [Give BACK](#)
- [Submit a Prayer Request](#)
- [Learn More About Fasting](#)
- [Share a testimony or story of God working in my life.](#)

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